

REMARKS

Claims 15-18 and 27-38 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 15 and 16 are amended. Claims 27-38 are added. The amendments and added claims introduce no new matter. Claims 1-14 and 19-26 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In reply to the June 9, 2006, Restriction and Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Species F of Group II, with traverse. Claims 15-18 and 27-38 read on the elected Species.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims and species are sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims or species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims and species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction and Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 15-18 and 27-38 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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